

Council Member Mike Sullivan's Newsletter

October 2010 | Volume 2 | Issue 10

Council Member Mike Sullivan



900 Bagby, First Floor
Houston, TX 77002

17629 El Camino Real
Suite 415
Houston, TX 77058

PHONE:
832.393.3008

FAX:
832.393.3279

E-MAIL:
DistrictE@houston.tx.gov

twitter

facebook

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.houston.tx.gov

Residents of District E,

The next uniform election date is November 2, 2010, which is nearly upon us. Early voting runs from October 18th to October 29th. The ballot will have a number of state and county offices up for grabs, from governor to probate judges, congressman to state board of education, and state representative to justice of the peace. No matter where you live, if you are registered voter, you can vote in this election.

The City of Houston conducts its elections in "odd-numbered years," so our office is not on the ballot. There are, however, three City of Houston Charter Amendment Propositions on this ballot. The propositions are:

- Prop. 1. "Relating to the Creation of a Dedicated Funding Source to Enhance, Improve and Renew Drainage Systems and Streets." This is commonly referred to as "Renew Houston."
- Prop. 2. "Relating to the Residency Requirements for District Council Office for the November 2011 General Election." This is on the ballot because the city undergoes redistricting next year.
- Prop. 3. "Relating to the Use of Photographic Traffic Signal Enforcement Systems (Red Light Cameras)." This speaks for itself.

As most of you know, NASA/Johnson Space Center is in my council district. When President Obama proposed radical changes to NASA's programs, it became clear that the effects would have been catastrophic. Job loss estimates varied widely, but it would have certainly had a negative effect on our economy, not just for Houston, but throughout the entire region. There are literally 18,000+ direct jobs that support NASA/JSC, and the multiplier effect is enormous.

I worked closely with Mayor Parker and Congressional leaders Pete Olson, Gene Green, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Ted Poe, and Shelia Jackson Lee for months, all with the help and support of BAHEP's president, Bob Mitchell. Bob traveled to Washington D.C. many times to help educate our congressional leaders, as did Mayor Parker and I. Citizens wrote thousands of letters and made numerous phone calls to make our collective voices heard. This was truly a grassroots effort, and because everyone worked together, we prevailed. The U.S. Senate and U.S. House both voted on important funding legislation that allows us to keep the space program on track and our aerospace jobs more secure. This was a tremendous victory for us, and I think our space program is stronger because of it.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you.

Mike Sullivan
Council Member

West Lake Houston Parkway at Kingwood Drive Ribbon Cutting

Council Member Sullivan, the Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce and area residents celebrated the completion of improvements at the intersection of W. Lake Houston Parkway and Kingwood Drive on September 3rd. A ribbon cutting was held that morning at the intersection for the right-turn lanes that were added to each corner and the left-turn bays that were extended in order to accommodate more vehicles. The traffic lights were also updated to LED lights.

Council Member Sullivan thanks the Public Works Department for helping with this project as well as Texas Sterling Construction and the Kings Crossing Community Association who helped replant the trees that were removed for the new construction.



Former KARWC President Alice Rekeweg and Former LHACC President Mike Byers cut the ribbon with Council Member Sullivan.

New EMS Equipment for Kingwood



The new vehicle should be in service within the next 90 days.

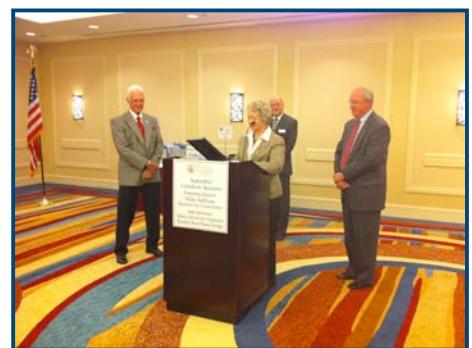
City Council voted last month to purchase a specially equipped all terrain vehicle for Kingwood. The 2011 Kawasaki Mule will be outfitted with an EMS stretcher and other life saving equipment. It will be centrally located at fire station #102, and will respond to emergencies on the greenbelts, in the parks and other difficult to reach areas in Kingwood.

Council Member Sullivan was determined to see better care for the residents and to give the fire fighters the tools they need to do their job. Public safety is one of his top priorities and believes the piece of equipment will be highly utilized along the 75 plus miles of greenbelts and parks in the area.

Lake Houston Chamber Luncheon

Council Member Sullivan attended and was the presenting sponsor of the Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce Luncheon in September where Mayor Annise Parker was the guest speaker. Mayor Parker spoke on many issues affecting the city including water rate increases, recycling centers, recent activity relating to NASA/JSC, etc.

During the luncheon, Council Member Sullivan had the honor of recognizing Chamber President Mike Byers with an official proclamation for his years of leadership and dedication to the Lake Houston Area Chamber. He helped Mayor Parker announce Thursday, September 30th as the official "Mike Byers Day" in the City of Houston.



Mayor Annise Parker presents Mike Byers with his proclamation.

Humble Rotary Meeting



Council Member Sullivan and Rotary President Greg Mielke

Council Member Sullivan spoke to the Humble-Intercontinental Rotary Club on Wednesday, September 8th at the Humble Civic Center. He addressed a number of topics including recently completed projects in Kingwood, future projects scheduled in Kingwood, the new airport director, review of Hurricane Ike responsibilities, finances at the city, etc.

Council Member Sullivan thanks the club and club President Gregg Mielke for inviting him to speak. He has long supported both the Humble and Space Center Rotary clubs.

NW Assistance Ministries Legislative Breakfast

Council Member Sullivan served as a panelist at the Northwest Assistance Ministries legislative breakfast on September 30th. He was asked to discuss how the City of Houston addresses hunger issues in the community, and discussed the different programs the city offers including Meals on Wheels and Summer Food Service Program. Sponsored by the city's Parks and Recreation Department, the Summer Food Program is federally funded and provides nutritional free meals to children during school summer vacation. The Parks Department has sponsored the program since 1984, and in 2010, a total of 1,221,000 meals at 455 sites were served in the Houston and Harris County areas.

Project Updates

- Designs are underway for a new community center, which will be located at the old library site. Demolition contract was awarded on May 12, 2010. The contractor completed demolition and clean up on July 2nd.
- The construction contract to widen Northpark Drive has been awarded. Construction should begin around January 15th.
- Three new Houston Police Department officers have been added to the Kingwood substation effective May 31st, one of which, is a bike officer.
- Intersection improvements at Woodland Hills and North Park Drive and West Lake Houston at Kingwood Drive are complete.

Town Hall Meeting

Council Member Sullivan is hosting a town hall meeting for his south constituents on October 13th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the University of Houston – Clear Lake. Representatives from several city departments will attend to present project updates and to answer questions attendees may have. Please note, due to scheduling conflicts, this will be a joint meeting for South Belt and Clear Lake residents.

For more information, please contact Karina Moreno in Council Member Sullivan's office at (832) 393.3008.

JE Dunn Volunteer Construction



Last month, the JE Dunn Construction Company in coordination with Rebuilding Together Houston renovated two houses in the South Belt area of District E. Council Member Sullivan visited with crews on Saturday, September 18th, as they took a break from renovating the houses. He personally thanked them for their commitment and service to the community and commended them for helping to improve the quality of life for his constituents.

Council Member Sullivan with the many volunteers that helped with the renovations of the two properties

Oak Meadow Civic Club Meeting

Council Member Sullivan spoke at the Oak Meadows Civic Club's monthly meeting at Caesar Chavez High School on September 22nd. The civic club invited Council Member Sullivan to speak to give updates about projects completed and scheduled for his district and to get a synopsis of important news happening at City Hall. He spoke about a variety of different topics including new Fire Chief Terry Garrison, deed restrictions, Alameda Mall development, Sagemont Community Center, National Night Out and his upcoming town hall meeting on October 13th.

Council Member Sullivan thanks civic club President Michelle Flores for inviting him to attend and speak at the September meeting.



Council Member Sullivan and the Oak Meadows board of directors.

Gulf Meadows Civic Club Meeting



Council Member Sullivan speaks to the residents of Gulf Meadows Civic Club.

The Gulf Meadows Civic Club also invited Council Member Sullivan to speak at their monthly meeting last month. He spoke to nearly 40 members of the club and touched upon a variety of district related issues. He specifically addressed several inquiries regarding the city's prohibited yard parking ordinance and flooding related concerns.

Council Member Sullivan thanks Janice Carter for inviting him to attend and to speak at the civic club meeting.

Wings Over Houston

The Annual Wings Over Houston Airshow will take to the skies on Saturday, October 23rd and Sunday, October 24th at Ellington Airport. Leading up to the show, Council Member Sullivan attended a Media Day event, which featured several of the military vintage aircraft that will participate in the show and highlighted many of those individuals who have had a significant impact and achievement in aviation. Council Member Sullivan is excited to have the airshow at Ellington Airport again this year as it brings a significant, positive economic impact to the area.

The 2010 Airshow benefits the Wings Over Houston Airshow Scholarship Program, TSU Aviation Career Academy, Exchange Club of Sugar Land and the Commemorative Air Force aircraft restoration and flying historical programs, in addition to numerous other nonprofit organizations.



Council Member Sullivan speaks to Executive Director of Wings Over Houston Airshow, Bill Roach.

EFD Recycling Center



Council Member Sullivan visited the Ellington Field Recycling Center last month to check on the newly updated closed containers. The city's Solid Waste Department recently installed covers to the existing recycling containers to practice environmental responsibility. These containers will prevent trash and debris from cluttering the area and invading the airspace. This is important as the recycling center is located at the Ellington Field Airport.

Council Member Sullivan thanks the Solid Waste Department for their improvements.



Project Updates

- Sagemont Community Center design work is underway.
- Outdoor lighting for Law Park is scheduled to began last month.
- The new 12,000 square foot and LEED Silver certified J.S. Bracewell Library is open.
- Monroe Road improvements are complete, and open all the way to Beltway 8.
- METRO's newly expanded South Point Park and Ride Lot is open and has an additional 390 parking spaces.

Town Hall Meeting

Council Member Sullivan is hosting a town hall meeting for his south constituents on October 13th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the University of Houston – Clear Lake. Representatives from several city departments will attend to present project updates and to answer questions attendees may have. Please note, due to scheduling conflicts, this will be a joint meeting for South Belt and Clear Lake residents.

For more information, please contact Karina Moreno in Council Member Sullivan's office at (832) 393.3008.

Bay Area Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau

Council Member Sullivan has accepted a position on the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau (BAHCVB) as the representative from the City of Houston. His role as a director will act to promote Houston as a vital area to the Bay Area and to further encourage marketing efforts to increase tourism and travel.

Ranked as one of the most successful multi-city convention and visitors bureaus in the state, BAHCVB is comprised of seven municipalities and numerous partners. The current member cities include Houston, Kemah, La Porte, League City, Nassau Bay, Seabrook and Webster. Together, the members work to promote the Bay Area as a great tourism and meetings destination while coordinating marketing and public relations efforts through local hotel occupancy tax (HOT).

ExxonMobil Meeting

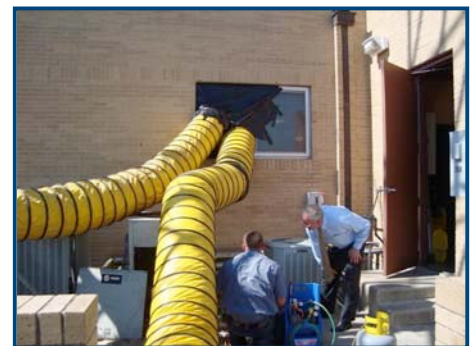
Council Member Sullivan had a meeting last month with representatives from Exxon Mobil regarding several areas of land in the Clear Lake area. Over the last several months the District E office has received numerous phone calls regarding the high grass around the Clear Lake City monument signs located at Highway 3 and Clear Lake City Blvd, Pineloch, El Dorado and Bay Area Blvd. Representatives Mark Lewallen and Deedra Moe researched the issue, claimed Exxon's ownership of the land and will continue to make sure the land is maintained.

Council Member Sullivan thanks Mark Lewallen and Deedra Moe for their efforts and for their prompt response to District E's inquiries.

HFD Station 93 Repairs

Council Member Sullivan's office was contacted last month about a broken a/c unit at fire station 93. After being contacted, Council Member Sullivan spoke with directors in the General Services Department who helped facilitate the repair request. The department contributed their time, efforts and support in making sure the unit was fixed and the station was cool. Council Member Sullivan visited the station daily until all repairs were completed.

Council Member Sullivan thanks Steve Girardi and Jesus Vasquez from General Services for their attention to this matter.



Council Member Sullivan visits the station and looks at the a/c repairs.

UHCL Community Partners Council Meeting

Council Member Sullivan among community partners from other businesses, educational institutions, government agencies and other non-profits attended the University of Houston – Clear Lake's Community Partners Council meeting last month. The council discussed several issues including the opening of the new Pearland campus, upcoming state legislative priorities in Austin about downward expansion, which is the addition of freshman and sophomore classes. The university is currently in discussion with area community colleges to help facilitate this growth and development.

The Community Partners Council, formerly known as Development and Advisory Council, serves as the principal external advisory board to the university president. The council's work focuses on STEM, health professions and teacher preparation and educational leadership.

Project Updates

- Sylvan Rodriguez Park is currently in the programming phase. Construction is scheduled to begin fiscal year 2012.
- Ellington Airport has almost \$50 million dollars in military construction projects now underway.

HFD Station Dedication Ceremony



A memorial dedication ceremony was held at fire station 26 on September 29th for Fire Fighter Damion Hobbs and Captain James Harlow who lost their lives in the line of duty last year. The two fire fighters were remembered during the ceremony for their distinguished service and their everlasting leadership. In honor of the two men, engine 26 was dedicated in their name. A memorial garden was also constructed at the station thanks to the City of Houston's Parks Department, Fire Fighter Jackie Hanson of station 102, Kingwood Church of Christ, station 26 and the many other contributors who provided their supplies, services and support.



Construction for the memorial began in February of 2010 and is one of several individual/station memorials around the city that honors firefighters who have died in the line of duty. There other memorials are located at fire stations 2, 46 and 76.

Council Member Sullivan was at the house fire which claimed the lives of the two fire fighters. It was a tragedy that will never be forgotten.

Pictured to the left: Council Member Sullivan, Fire Fighter Jackie Hanson, Officer Jeremy Hanson and his wife.

Smoke Free for Three



A proclamation was given recognizing Houston as a non-smoking city for three years.

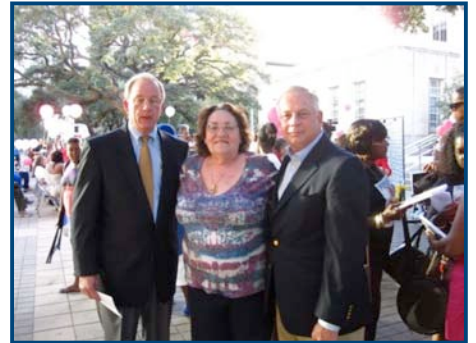
Council Member Sullivan joined a large group of minority health coalitions, including doctors and other elected officials last month to celebrate the third anniversary of Houston's successful smoking ban urging Houstonians to quit smoking. The third anniversary also kicked off the "Smoke Free for 3" campaign that recognizes the positive steps taken in the City of Houston in creating more smoke free places and aims to encourage current smokers to consult with a physician about how to effectively quit smoking. Council Member Sullivan supports these initiatives and has confidence that this campaign will be able to make great strides in continuing to promote a healthier environment for Houstonians.

The Houston City Council approved the citywide smoking ban on October 18, 2006, and it went into effect on September 1, 2007. Houston is among several major cities in Texas with smoke free ordinances among Austin, Dallas, San Antonio, Baytown, Galveston, Pearland and Pasadena.

National Day of Remembrance

The parents of murdered children held a National Day of Remembrance ceremony next to the Reflection Pond at City Hall on September 26th. The ceremony honored children lost to violent crime and included a candlelight vigil. Council Member Sullivan led the pledge for the Honor Guard, read one month's list of homicide victims, offered brief remarks and expressed his condolences for those lost.

Council Member Sullivan thanks Andy Kahan with the Mayor's Victims Assistance Office for including him once again in this reflective ceremony and for allowing him to express his support for victim's rights.



Council Member Sullivan, Carolyn Hardin and Congressman Gene Green

METRO Press Conference

Mayor Annise Parker hosted a press conference last month to allow METRO leaders to comment on the findings of the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) "Buy America" investigation and review of plans to purchase 103 new light rail vehicles. Mayor Parker recognized Houston's need for a first class transit system and expressed confidence that the FTA supports METRO's rail-expansion program. It was acknowledged that there are plans to make funds available to keep the program moving forward and confirmed that plans have been laid out outlining how to keep that momentum.

Council Member Sullivan attended the press conference and supports the leadership of METRO's President and CEO George Greanias and Chairman Gilbert Garcia.

University of Houston Football Game



Council Member James Rodriguez, U of H President Renu Khator and Council Member Sullivan

Council Member Mike Sullivan attended the University of Houston's first game of the season against Texas State on September 4th. Before the game, he assisted and participated in a proclamation presentation with Council Member James G. Rodriguez. The two presented University of Houston President Renu Khator an official proclamation proclaiming "Celebrate Houston Day" and recognizing the kick off of the University of Houston 2010 football season.

POW-MIA Memorial

A POW-MIA memorial ceremony was held on the steps of City Hall on September 17th, honoring and remembering those who have never returned home from war. Congressman Ted Poe from the Second Congressional District of Texas was the keynote speaker at the event and paid tribute to the brave and courageous soldiers who voluntarily fight for the United States of America. Four military men were remembered during the ceremony as their stories were read and their places set at the POW-MIA table symbolizing their absence from our midst.

Council Member Sullivan attended the ceremony along with Congressman Poe, Mayor Parker and Harris County Commissioner Sylvia Garcia.



Harris County Commissioner Sylvia Garcia, Congressman Ted Poe and Council Member Sullivan

People's Republic of China Reception



Council Member Sullivan and Consul General Gao Yanping

On September 24th Council Member Sullivan attended a ceremony recognizing the 61st Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China hosted by the Consul General Gao Yanping. Consul General Yanping presented an update on China and the significant achievements the country has made in the recent years. She also described certain global issues and natural disasters the country and its people have overcome. Further, she commended the positive relationship China has with the southern region of the United States and more specifically Texas.

During the ceremony Council Member Sullivan presented the Consul General with a certificate congratulating the People's Republic of China and wishing them much success.

Overlays Scheduled

Several streets in District E will be overlaid during fiscal year 2011. The City of Houston's Public Works and Engineering, Right-of-Way and Fleet Maintenance Division will begin work on 16 linear miles in district E. The overlays are located between Federal and Normandy streets around the Ship Channel. To see where they are located, please visit the Public Works Department's website at

<http://www.publicworks.houstontx.gov/row/streetbranch.html>.

A pavement overlay is the application of a layer of hot asphalt to an existing paved road that has deteriorated because of years of wear from traffic and environmental factors. The City of Houston's overlay program is used to restore paved road surfaces as part of routine maintenance. An overlay adds structural capacity, riding comfort and skid resistance, which adds to the road's safety. Smooth road surfaces also decrease vehicle maintenance costs and improve fuel economy. Pavement overlays help reduce traffic noise, which is important in urban developments. While newly overlaid roads are aesthetically pleasing, roads are not overlaid to improve appearance.

Neighborhood Depository Sites

The Solid Waste Management Department has opened two new Neighborhood Depository/Recycling Centers. The first is located in North Houston located at 9003 N. Main and the other is in SW Houston located at 10785 Southwest Freeway. These facilities allow residents to dispose of junk waste material and recycling including paper, cardboard, plastics #1-5 and #7, glass containers and aluminum and tin cans. This service is provided to Houston residents at no charge with proof of Houston residency in the form of a water/utility bill and Texas Drivers license or ID.

For more information please visit the Solid Waste Department's website at www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste.

Heavy Trash

Council Member Sullivan would like to remind District E residents that the city of Houston's Solid Waste Department will pick up **Junk Waste** in October. Junk Waste is defined as furniture, appliances and other bulky material. Resident's who receive City of Houston trash pick up service can legally put junk waste out at 6:00 p.m. the Friday before their designated pick-up day.

Note: Tree waste is accepted during Junk Waste months. However, to ensure that your Tree Waste is recycled, you may hold your tree waste materials until the next Tree Waste designated month or bring it to a neighborhood depository. For more information please visit www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste

City Hall Annex
900 Bagby
First Floor
Houston, TX 77002

Monica Aizpurua, Chief of Staff
Karina Moreno, District Outreach Coordinator
Autumn Jodzio, North Sector Manager
Lauren Doak, South Sector Manager

To add or remove yourself from our distribution list, please email Lauren Doak at Lauren.Doak@houstontx.gov.